United Nations A/AC.265/2005/L.4

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
9 August 2005

Original: English

Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
New York, 1-12 August 2005

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/168, the General Assembly decided to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, based on a holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development.

2. In its resolution 59/198, the Assembly decided that the Committee should hold, within existing resources, prior to the sixtieth session of the Assembly, two sessions in 2005, of 10 working days each, to be held, respectively, from 24 January to 4 February and in July/August.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the sixth session

3. The Committee held its sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 1 to 12 August 2005; it held 20 meetings.

4. The Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, acted as the substantive secretariat, while the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat, served as the secretariat of the Committee.

5. The sixth session of the Committee was opened by its Chairman, Don MacKay, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations.

05-45545 (E) 100805

B. Officers

6. On 13 April 2005, the Committee held its organizational meeting, at which the following officers were elected to serve on its Bureau:

Chairman:
Don MacKay (New Zealand)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Jorge Ballestero (Costa Rica)
Ivana Grollovà (Czech Republic)
Mu'taz Hyassat (Jordan)
Laoura Lazouras (South Africa)[1]

C. Agenda

7. At its 1st meeting, on 1 August 2005, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its sixth session, as contained in document A/AC.265/2005/L.3, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Continuation of consideration of the proposed revisions and amendments to the draft text of the Working Group as contained in the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee on its third session (A/AC.265/2004/5, annex II), fourth session (A/59/360, annex IV) and fifth session (A/AC.265/2005/2, annexes II and III).
6. Conclusion of the Ad Hoc Committee at its sixth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its sixth session.

D. Documentation

8. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on its fifth session (A/AC.265/2005/2);

(b) Note verbale dated 18 July 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat (A/AC.265/2005/3);

(c) Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Committee (A/AC.265/2005/L.3);

(d) List of participants (A/AC.265/2005/INF/2);

(e) Proposed programme of work for the sixth session of the Committee (A/AC.265/2005/CRP.3);

[1] Elected on 1 August 2005.

(f) The concept of "special" measures in international human rights law: background document prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/AC.265/2005/CRP.4);

(g) Legal capacity: background document prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/AC.265/2005/CRP.5);

(h) Report of the Committee on its third session (A/AC.265/2004/5 and Corr.1);

(i) Report of the Working Group (A/AC.265/2004/WG.1);

(j) Report of the Committee on its fourth session (A/59/360).

III. Organization of work

9. At its sixth session, the Committee conducted informal discussions on articles 15, 15 bis and 24 bis, followed by articles 16 to the end of the text of the draft convention [and proposed additional articles], in accordance with the programme of work adopted at its first meeting, on 1 August 2005. At its 20th meeting, on 12 August, the Committee heard the report of the Chairman on the progress made in the informal discussions held on the aforementioned draft articles (see annex II). The Committee decided to continue to review the draft convention at its seventh session.

IV. Recommendations

10. The Committee recommends that it continue its work in 2006 and that it hold, within existing resources, prior to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, __ sessions in 2006, of __ working days each, to be held, respectively, in January and August.

11. The Committee invites the members of its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in regard to the preparation and organization of its seventh session, including the preparation of the provisional agenda, which should be issued at least four weeks before the seventh session.

12. With regard to accessibility and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 58/246 and 59/198 and decision 56/474, the Committee reiterated the need for additional efforts to be made to ensure accessibility at the United Nations, with reasonable accommodation as regards facilities and documentation, for all persons with disabilities.

13. In this regard, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to explore and implement innovative measures, within existing resources and in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and the Bureau, for the provision of selected documents in Braille. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventh session on the implementation of this recommendation.

14. The Committee calls upon the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, to intensify their cooperation in support of the work of the Committee, as well as in anticipation of the implementation of the draft convention, and invites the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the

United Nations Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to take the necessary steps to secure this inter-agency collaboration.

V. Adoption of the report

15. At its 20th meeting, on 12 August, the Committee adopted the draft report on its sixth session (A/AC.265/2005/L.4) [as orally amended].

Annex I

Additional non-governmental organizations accredited to the sixth session of the Committee

Abilities

Action on Disability and Development

Afghan Disabled Union

Autisme Europe

British Council of Disabled People

Consiglio Nazionale sulla Disabilità

Consortium Humanitarian Agencies

Federation of and for People with Disabilities

Friends of Peace and Development Organization

Gambia Future Hands on Disable People

Instituto Paradigma

International Stuttering Association

Iraqi Handicapped and Survivors Society

Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union

Leonard Cheshire International

Mine and Weapon Victims Association

Peace and the Tolerance International Organization

Persons With Pain International

Society for Mental Health Care

Sudan Association for Combating Landmines

Union des personnes handicapées du Burundi

Annex II

Report of the Chairman

[To be completed.]